ABSTRACT

1   A method and apparatus for providing a communications

2 service feature to a party communicating through a network.

3 It is first determined if the party making the communication

4 is a subscriber based on an identifier associated with the

5 party and a local database containing a subset of subscriber

6 identifiers. It is then verified that the identifier

7 associated with the party is in the subset of identifiers

8 that would be included in this local database. For those

9 identifiers that are not in the local database and that are

10 not in the subset of identifiers that would be included in

11 the local database, a global database containing all

12 subscriber identifiers is queried to determine if the party

13 is a subscriber. It can also be verified that

14 the network provider knows the identifier of the party making

15 the communication and that the provider is able to provide

16 the communications service feature for the particular

17 communication. If the party is a subscriber and the above

18 conditions are met, the communications service feature is

19 provided.